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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,641	06/28/2001	Norihiro Suzuki	35.C15495	4500

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EXAMINER

RAMSEY, KENNETH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2879	

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/892,641	SUZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kenneth J. Ramsey	2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other: _____

Rejection

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-105,850 in view of Murata et al (4,69,575) and Piascinski et al (5,595,520). JP 7-105,850 teaches the process of applying an electric field to a display device to loosen particles that contaminate the display to remove them. The Japanese patent application differs from the claimed invention in that it is not taught to apply an electric field between the rear plate and face plate in the state that the airtight container is slanted such that a longitudinal direction of the plate shaped spacers is not perpendicular to a direction of gravity. However, it is known from Murata et al to provide plate like spacers to separate the electrodes in such a display and to orient the display in such a manner that gravity assists in the removal of the particles from the display would have been an obvious expedient as shown by Piascinski et al, column 3, lines 36-42. Therefore the invention of claim 1 would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since the spacers if disposed perpendicular to the force of gravity would impede the removal of the particles.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter: Claims 2-3 are allowed since although it was known from JP 7-105,850 to use electric pulse energy fields to shake foreign matter loose from the substrates of an image display device after assembly, the prior art does not teach or suggest the process of manufacturing a image display device comprising disposing a rear plate comprising a plurality of electron emitting devices and a face plate having a phosphor and an electroconductive film opposite to each other with a plurality of plate shaped spacers in between to assemble an airtight container; and applying an electric field between the rear plate and face plate in the state that the airtight container is slanted such that a longitudinal direction of the plate shaped spacers is not perpendicular to a direction of gravity, wherein the electric field is lower than an electric field applied during operation of the device.

CONTACTS

Any technical or legal inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Kenneth J. Ramsey at telephone number 703-308-2324.

Kenneth J. Ramsey
Kenneth J. Ramsey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879